

would join on the same terms as other Great Powers, namely as a permanent member of the Council; and she naturally took it for granted that she would enter that select circle alone. When, however, at a special meeting of the Assembly called for the entry of Germany the question came up in the spring of 1926, Briand audaciously announced that if she were refused she would veto Germany's election. Her claim was rejected, and she withdrew from the League. Briand favoured the addition of Poland and Chamberlain leaned to Spain. To cheapen membership of the Council at the moment of Germany's entry by adding, as permanent members, states not recognized as Great Powers was hardly playing the game, and France's patronage of Poland looked as if she desired a make-weight against the new German element. The difficulty, which ought never to have arisen, was momentarily overcome by the appointment of a committee to consider the whole question. British public opinion had shown sounder judgment than the Foreign Secretary. Germany postponed the final step till the Assembly in September, when she alone became a permanent member of the Council, the claims of her rivals being partially satisfied by the creation of a new class of semi-permanent members. The most memorable day in the life of the League was that on which Stresemann mounted the platform and Briand welcomed Germany to Geneva, proclaiming with incomparable eloquence that both countries had had enough of military glory and could now co-operate in the tasks of peace. During a pleasant informal lunch at Thoiry on September 17 the two statesmen discussed further possibilities, including the evacuation of the Rhineland and the Saar in return for a quicker flow of reparations. Had the

Thoiry programme been carried out or the
Thoiry spirit pre-
served, perhaps Weimar Germany might have
survived.

IX. THE PACT OF PARIS

With Germany at Geneva and the sunshine of
Locarno overhead Chamberlain's ambitions for the
organization of
peace were fulfilled. " My policy in regard to
the League,"
he wrote in January, 1927, "is to let it develop
slowly and
naturally, to avoid radical changes and
ambitious attempts to
recast its constitution, to pray that it may not
have to face a
great crisis until it is much more firmly
established, but mean-
while to try to keep the four Great Powers of
Europe together,
for if they are in agreement no great trouble is
to be expected."